

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 656

By Curtiss

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Garry Tanner of the Pleasantville Volunteer Fire Department.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective well-being, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Tennesseans continue this time-honored tradition of volunteerism through service as firefighters; and

WHEREAS, these individuals daily face the rigors of corporal imperilment in protecting those whom they so selflessly serve; and

WHEREAS, Firefighter Garry Tanner of the Pleasantville Volunteer Fire Department was one such outstanding public servant, and the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of his tragic and untimely death in the line of duty on April 19, 2006; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Tanner served astutely as a charter member of the Pleasantville Volunteer Fire Department, earning the respect and admiration of his fellow firefighters and the adoration of a grateful public for his unsurpassed dedication and professionalism; and

WHEREAS, Garry Tanner had just helped save a home from being destroyed by fire at the time of his death; and

WHEREAS, in addition to being well-respected as a firefighter, Mr. Tanner also served his community as owner of Pleasantville Market and was an active and devout member of the Pleasantville Pentecostal Church; and

WHEREAS, Garry Tanner was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Tanner enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Debra Sanders Tanner; he is further survived by his mother, Melba Halbrooks Tanner; his son, Travis Tanner; his daughters, Connie Vazquez and Christine Goins; his brothers, Mike Tanner, Tim Tanner,

and David Tanner; his sisters, Angie Haynes and Linda Williams; and his grandchildren, Robert, Hollie, and Sara; and

WHEREAS, his courageous act honors the memory of his beloved father, Austin Tanner, who preceded him in death; and

WHEREAS, those who knew Mr. Tanner best speak of him as a good man of the Pleasantville community who epitomized his fire department's motto, "Neighbor Helping Neighbor"; and

WHEREAS, Garry Tanner leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being who made the ultimate sacrifice while protecting and serving his community; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Garry Tanner, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character as a firefighter and human being and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Tanner.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.